

## Abstract

### Data Storage and Retrieval System

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A data classification method, data structure and associated systems are described. A number of hierarchical indices are defined and linked to data stored in a database.

Data elements are linked to applicable ones of the indices in dependence on characteristics of the data. The link is with the lowest applicable entry in the

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respective index.

[Fig. 1]

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a data storage and retrieval system. It shows a central database (1) connected to a classification method (2) and a data structure (3). The classification method (2) is linked to a set of hierarchical indices (4). The data structure (3) is linked to a set of data elements (5). The data elements (5) are linked to the hierarchical indices (4) in dependence on their characteristics. The link is with the lowest applicable entry in the respective index.